REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office action dated September 11, 2007.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 10, 14, 18 and 19 are independent claims. Claims 2-9 depend from

claim 1 and therefore comprise all the limitations therein. Claims 11-13 depend from

claim 10 and therefore comprise all the limitations therein. Claims 15-17 depend from

claim 14 and therefore comprise all the limitations therein.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Barry et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,825,943, hereinafter "Barry," in view of

Official Notice.

Independent claim 1 has been amended and comprises the element of:

> creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file that is distinct
>
> from said spool data file, but based on data in said spool data file,
>
> wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to said spool data
>
> file, wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data
>
> file required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific unit
>
> of said document;

which is an element not disclosed in the cited combination of art.

Barry discloses a method for splitting a print job into several portions for parallel

RIP processing. Barry further discloses the use of a "control file" that contains

parameters for managing the several portions for parallel RIP processes. The control file

is updated to keep track of the various portions of the print job while they are being

apportioned. However, this control file is not analogous to the page-independent index

file of this claim.

The control file of Barry performs the function of splitting a print file for multiple

concurrent RIP operations. Barry does not teach the use of a control file that changes the

output print format in any way. Nor does Barry teach any form of document page format

manipulation. The control file of Barry effectuates no changes that effect the output

format or output characteristics of the print job.

Further, the control file of Barry is not an index file as is the Page-Independent

Spool File of the currently claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the Page-Independent

Spool File of the currently claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention from the

non-analogous control file of Barry.

The examiner's Office Notice of well-known manipulation options is not related

to the claim element currently being argued.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is therefore allowable in its present form.

Claims 2 and 4-9 depend from claim 1 and comprise the limitations therein. The

rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-9 should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 was amended to correct a typographical error.

Independent claim 10 has been amended and comprises the element of:

wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to a spool data file,

wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file

required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific units

corresponding to a page of a said document, wherein said first

independently-formatted page-specific unit is based on document-wide,

persistent, page formatting data in said spool data file, thereby producing a

manipulated PISF index file;

which, as argued above in relation to independent claim 1, is not taught in the cited

combination of art. The rejection of independent claim 10 and claims 12 and 13, which

depend from claim 10, should therefore be withdrawn.

Independent claim 14 has been similarly amended and comprises the element of

"wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to said spool data file, wherein said

first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file required to print a first

independently-formatted, page-specific unit derived from document-wide, persistent,

page formatting data in said spool data file." This element is not disclosed, as argued

above in relation to independent claim 1, in the cited combination of art. The rejection of

independent claim 14 and claims 15-17, which depend from claim 14, should therefore be

withdrawn.

Independent claim 18 has been amended and comprises the element of

"formatting data in said spool data file into a page-independent spool file (PISF) index

file comprising a first link to said spool data file, wherein said first link identifies a first

portion of said spool data file required to print a first independently-formatted, page-

specific unit." This element is not disclosed, as argued above in relation to independent

claim 1, in the cited combination of art. Independent claim 18, as amended, is therefore

allowable, and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 19 has been amended and comprises the element of:

> creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file that is distinct
>
> from said spool data file, but based on data in said spool data file,
>
> wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to said spool data
>
> file, wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data
>
> file required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific unit
>
> of said document;

which is an element not disclosed, as argued above in relation to independent claim 1, in

the cited combination of art. Independent claim 19, as amended, is therefore allowable,

and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Barry et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,825,943, hereinafter "Barry," in view of the

applicant's admitted prior art in the background of the invention, hereinafter "background."

Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1, and claim 11 depends from

independent claim 10.

Independent claim 1 has been amended and comprises the element of:

> creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file that is distinct
>
> from said spool data file, but based on data in said spool data file,
>
> wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to said spool data
>
> file, wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data
>
> file required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific unit
>
> of said document;

which is not disclosed in the cited combination of art.

Barry discloses a method for splitting a print job into several portions for parallel
RIP processing. Barry further discloses the use of a "control file" that contains
parameters for managing the several portions for parallel RIP processes. The control file
is updated to keep track of the various portions of the print job while they are being
apportioned. However, this control file is not analogous to the page-independent index
file of this claim.

The control file of Barry performs the function of splitting a print file for multiple
concurrent RIP operations. Barry does not teach the use of a control file that changes the
output print format in any way. Nor does Barry teach any form of document page format
manipulation. The control file of Barry effectuates no changes that effect the output
format or output characteristics of the print job.

Further, the control file of Barry is not an index file as is the Page-Independent
Spool File of the currently claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the Page-Independent

Spool File of the currently claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention from the

non-analogous control file of Barry.

The background merely recites page formatting options provided by some

printing devices. The background cited by the examiner in combination with Barry does

not disclose the above-listed elements of amended claim 1. Independent claim 1, as

amended, is therefore allowable in its present form, and thus claim 3 is allowable.

Independent claim 10 has been amended and comprises the element of:

> wherein said PISF index file comprises a first link to a spool data file,
>
> wherein said first link identifies a first portion of said spool data file
>
> required to print a first independently-formatted page-specific units
>
> corresponding to a page of a said document, wherein said first
>
> independently-formatted page-specific unit is based on document-wide,
>
> persistent, page formatting data in said spool data file, thereby producing a
>
> manipulated PISF index file;

which, as argued above in relation to independent claim 1, is not taught in the cited

combination of art. Therefore claim 10, and claim 11 by dependence on claim 10, are

allowable in present form.

In light of the arguments above, all claims are considered to be novel, non-

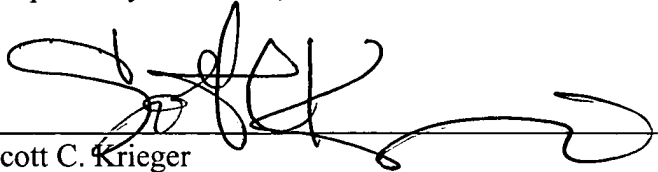obvious and patentable in view of the cited art. The applicant respectfully requests that

the examiner reconsider the rejections of these claims. The examiner is invited to contact

applicant's attorney directly for any reason.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests

reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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